THE
DISSEMINATOR
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THEDISSEMINATOR
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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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Available on the Internet via gopher at rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca -or-
WWW: http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/provlib/disseminator
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Questions or comments about the activities in this issue should be directed to the contact people named (unless otherwise stated, @nshpl.library.ns.ca is the domain for all e-mail addresses in this publication). Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Sue Dirani (sdirani). To add a name to the mailing list, send a message to Debbie Ross (dross).

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THE DISS ON THE NET!

For those in cyberspace who have a WWW browser, such as Mosaic, Netscape or Lynx, you can now view THE DISSEMINATOR on Provincial Library's WWW home page. Use the following URL to get there: http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/provlib/disseminator. (The Editor to the Stars has her own home page too! You can see it at: "http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/~sdirani/suezone.html" - sorry, no photos yet!)

LIBRARIES FUNDING FORMULA REVIEW

The Libraries Funding Formula Review Committee held its first meeting November 9, 1994. The group is working within a very tight time frame with recommendations due to be submitted to the Minister of Education at the end of January 1995. Three working groups were established: Service Innovations; Finance; and Vision/Future. The Service Innovations group will examine core services, technological developments, and alternative sources of revenue. The Finance group will examine the pros and cons of funding formulas discussed to date, with a view to developing a new formula. The Vision/Future group will look at definitions of equity, adequacy, cost recovery, core services, and centres of excellence for library services, and will also look at existing school library/public library cooperation. The Library Boards Association and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities will present submissions at the next meeting taking place on December 2. Comments or questions on the work of the committee are welcome. For more information, contact Marion Pape (mpape).

YUKON VIDEOCONFERENCE

A teleconference was held recently between the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and its counterpart in the Yukon. The consortium of Yukon libraries expressed interest in how Nova Scotia is taking advantage of the Information Highway. To provide some interesting views on this we called on a few members of regional library staff to discuss relevant issues. Fred Popowich from Pictou Antigonish Regional Library, and Joan Brown Hicks from Halifax City Regional Library both participated as did Carole Compton-Smith of Provincial Library and Bernie Hart of Education Media Services. Videoconference services were supplied by ADCOM Presentation Group in Halifax, phone 423-5800, fax 423-5804. We understand that MT&T also makes this technology available.

UMBRELLA GROUP FOR FREENETS CONFERENCE

The Agricultural College in Truro was the scene of the Umbrella Group for Freenets Conference on Friday and Saturday, November 25 and 26. Participants from all around Nova Scotia were present, including representatives from different government agencies, community development agencies, regional public libraries, community colleges and universities. Presentations were given by the Chebucto FreeNet, the Cape Breton Community Network, which expects to be on-line early in 1995, and by some community networks in the developmental stage such as Yarmouth, Tatamagouche with its smart rural community and Antigonish with its Grassroots Association. Among other presentations was a panel discussion with participants from Industry Canada, NS Department of Transportation and Communications, MT&T, NSTN, NS Power Inc., Cable Operators Association of Nova Scotia and ISIS. As well, the Nova Scotia Economic Renewal Agency presented a Discussion Paper on funding assistance for freenets in Nova Scotia. The goal of the conference, to create an umbrella group for freenets in Nova Scotia, was accomplished in the conference resolution to form a steering committee called the Nova Scotia Federation of Community Networks. The group has a beginning mandate to call a meeting before the end of January, 1995. To subscribe to the mailing list for this group, send a message to listserv@rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca, and include "subscribe nsfcn yourfirstname yourlastname" (without the quotes) in the body of the message. The message should not contain any other characters.

COALITION FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Coalition for Public Information is currently setting up a series of public hearings on the information highway. They are working with a variety of groups throughout the country in order to establish a mechanism for the "public voice in the information age" to state its opinion. The consultation draft document "Future Knowledge" forms the basis for the consultations. A copy of the document is being forwarded to each regional library; it is also available at the Provincial Library.

NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY ACCESS PROJECT

As a result of growing interest in community access to the Internet, Industry Canada is using the SchoolNet Initiative to help schools offer an Internet training program in rural areas where it might otherwise not be available. Five schools will receive $25,000 to provide equipment, a network connection and a classroom, and at least three adult training workshops will take place between January and June of 1995. The schools that have been chosen are Bridgetown Regional High School, Guysborough District School Board, Springhill Junior/Senior High School, Whycocomagh Consolidated School and Yarmouth High School. It is hoped that local project teams will include representatives from the regional libraries, the local business community and other relevant organizations. Once communities have been trained in using the Internet, the demand for affordable access will increase. The aim of the Provincial Library to have at least one public accessible terminal in each public library is a worthy goal. To date, the only community access terminal in Nova Scotia is located at the Spring Garden branch of the Halifax City Regional Library. Questions should be directed to Gwen MacNairn (gmacnair).

FREEDOM TO READ WEEK 1995

In anticipation of Freedom to Read Week, February 28 - March 5, 1995, H.H. Marshall Wholesalers of Halifax are making Freedom to Read Week kits available at a cost of $12 plus GST. Freedom to Read Week is sponsored by the Book and Periodical Council. For more information contact Sara Thring, Coordinator, at (416) 480-2530. Stay tuned to THE DISSEMINATOR for more details about Freedom to Read Week!

RS6000 - AT YOUR SERVICE (gopher, WWW, listservs)

Provincial Library has recently installed a list server, gopher server and WWW server on the RS6000. This will enable us to create and maintain our own gopher, our own WWW home page, and our own Internet automated mailing lists. In fact, we've already begun work on the gopher and the WWW home page. To see our gopher (and be warned - it's under construction), point your gopher to "rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca". To see our WWW home page (also under construction), you need a WWW browser such as Mosaic, Lynx or Netscape. Use the following URL: "http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/". Each of the regional libraries can set up a home page on our server. In fact, Western Counties already has. For details about setting up your home page, contact Leslie Foster (lfoster).

multiLIS NEWS

The latest version of the multiLIS software (release 10.9) was installed at Provincial Library the last week of November. On a related note, the following problems have been reported to multiLIS (the company) for correction: the print problem at local terminals and the call number indexing problem. Users are supposed to be able to print from the OPAC, for example, to a local printer instead of to the central site. multiLIS is investigating this as well as the problem with the call number indexing. We hope to have both issues resolved soon.

HALIFAX CITY BY TELNET

Halifax City Regional Library's Dynix catalogue can now be accessed by telnet at the address: library.nsh.library.ns.ca (the IP address is 198.166.14.1 if you wish to add it to your WinQVT/Net menu). Enter "pac" at the "username" prompt - no password is required. If you are prompted for a terminal type enter VT100. To log off, type "later" at the main Dynix screen. Contact Leslie Foster (lfoster) if you require any assistance.

KEEP THAT DOGGIE ROLLIN...

Nov. 2, 3 and 4 saw Gwen MacNairn, Leslie Foster and Carole Compton-Smith travelling to several regional library headquarters. Meetings were arranged with different community participants at Cumberland Regional Headquarters, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Headquarters and Eastern Counties Regional Headquarters to use the on-line facilities at each location for demonstrations of the Chebucto FreeNet (the only freenet in Nova Scotia currently up and running) and the NcompasS database. At each

location various automation concerns were also discussed. Dale MacMillan joined the group at ECRL and Cape Breton to review some InterLibrary Loan training.

NEW STAFF AT PL

Provincial Library is pleased to welcome two new staff members - Sue Hunter and Michael Gillis. Sue is filling the Librarian 1 position in User Services on a temporary basis. Prior to her employment with us, she did a variety of contract work ranging from research and organization of information to database management. Michael is the new System Administrator in Technical Services. Previously employed with Novanet, he has a B.Sc., a certificate in Computer Graphics, and is currently working on his Masters in Computer Science. Provincial Library is delighted to have them aboard.

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this issue, we are featuring three books about the Internet recently added to our Professional Collection. Readers may also be interested in the following article: McClure, Charles R. "Network literacy: a role for libraries?". Information Technology and Libraries, v13(2) (June, 1994): 115-125.

1) Jaffe, Lee David. Introducing the Internet: a Trainer's Workshop. Number 1. Supplement to "Crossing the Internet Threshold." (Prof 384.3 New)
- The Internet Workshop Series is the book form of actual workshops of expert Internet trainers. This series is intended to assist two types of reader: the trainer and the learner. For the trainer, each volume provides a training model. For the learner, each volume is a self-paced workshop. In addition to providing the words and supporting materials of training sessions, this volume also includes diskettes of the presentation slides, created in PowerPoint, that can be viewed on a MacIntosh or DOS-based computer.

2) John, Nancy. The Internet Troubleshooter : Help for the logged-on and Lost. Chicago: American Library Association, 1994. (Prof. 384.3 Joh)
- This book is designed to assist Internet users when encountering problems while logged on. It is a compact question and answer guide which includes screen illustrations, an index and a glossary. Chapters are organized by function, such as E-Mail, Listservs and Telnet, including problems which users may encounter using them.

3) New Brunswick Task Force on the Electronic Information Highway. Driving the Information Highway: the report of the New Brunswick Task Force on the Electronic Information Highway. Fredericton : The Task Force, 1994. (Prof. 384.3 Joh)
- A task force representing government, industry and the academic community in New Brunswick prepared this report which outlines the current situation and the future potential of the information highway. It presents New Brunswick's advantages and discusses how New Brunswickers are currently benefitting from the highway as well as how they will benefit increasingly in the future. -- Frank Oram (foram).

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Please remember to submit any suggestions you have for new books for the professional collection. Your input will help us build a stronger collection and enable us to better meet your information needs. As well, we recently revised Provincial Library's Internet Bibliography which lists helpful books and articles about the Internet. Contact Frank Oram (foram) if you would like a copy.

ANOTHER USEFUL REFERENCE TIP

The Statistics Canada Library recently announced that the "Statistics Canada Catalogue 1994" is now available on the Internet. This makes information about Statistics Canada's print and electronic products and services accessible internationally via their Gopher. To view it, point your gopher to "talon.statcan.ca".

INTERNET HUMOUR

This recently came across our desks (via e-mail) and we thought you'd enjoy it.
Q: What is the Information Superhighway?
A: It's just like the Internet, except it's a lot more expensive, you can't post and there's no killfile, rec.humor.funny has a laugh track, there's a commercial break every 10 minutes, everything is formatted to 40 columns for TV's, the free software costs you $2.00/megabyte to ftp.
A: It's just like Cable TV, except it's a lot more expensive, the picture isn't as good, there's 500 channels of Pay-per-View and home-shopping, you can watch any episode of Gilligan's Island for only $2.00, no public access channels, there's a commercial break every 10 minutes.
A: It's just like renting videos, except it's a lot more expensive, there's only 1/100th as many movies to choose from, no porno, there's no pause, fast-forward, or rewind, it costs you another $3.95 if you want to watch it again, there's a commercial break every 10 minutes.
A: It's just like the telephone, except it's a lot more expensive, there's no one to talk to, there's a commercial break every 10 minutes, every number is a toll call.

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